

REMARKS

Upon entry of the Amendment, Claim 1 is pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended. Claim 2 has been canceled. The subject matter of canceled Claim 2 has been incorporated into Claim 1. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

Claims 1-2 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,132,164 to Moriya *et al.* (“Moriya ‘164”) or U.S. Patent No. 5,256,472 to Moriya *et al.* (“Moriya ‘472”).

Claim 1 presently recites that the base layer has a thickness of about 0.8 mm to about 5 mm and that the surface layer has a thickness of about 5 μm to about 500 μm .

In contrast, both Moriya ‘164 and Moriya ‘472 disclose that its film has an overall thickness from 10 to 150 μm . *See*, Abstracts of Moriya ‘164 and Moriya ‘472.

By converting the “ μm ” units disclosed in Moriya ‘164 and Moriya ‘472 to “mm” units, a person of ordinary skill in the art would have appreciated that Moriya ‘164 and Moriya ‘472 disclose that the overall thickness of the film thereof is 0.010 mm to 0.150 mm. Such an overall thickness provided by Moriya ‘164 and Moriya ‘472 is different from the minimum thickness of the resin plate recited in Claim 1. As a result, the claimed resin plate is novel over Moriya ‘164 and ‘472.

Further, in an effort to advance prosecution, Applicants respectfully submit that Moriya ‘164 and Moriya ‘472 fail to suggest the resin plate recited in Claim 1.

A methyl methacrylate polymer having about 30 % by weight or more of methyl methacrylate unit as a monomer unit (“PMMA”) is useful as a resin plate having superior

transparency. A resin plate obtained by molding the PMMA into a plate shape can be used, for example, as a light guide plate which is to be disposed on the backside of a liquid crystal display.

Resin plates have had problems in that the resin plate absorbed the moisture in the air and have been subject to easy deformation, such as warp and wave.

In this regard, the claimed resin plate provides superior transparency as well as little deformation due to moisture absorption.

A person of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to modify the “film” disclosed in Moriya ‘164 or Moriya ‘472 to provide for a thicker resin plate. Both Moriya ‘164 and Moriya ‘472 disclose that the film thereof is used to laminate the surfaces of plastic, rubber, metal plate, glass, wood, slate or other substrate, for the purpose of protecting or decorating the surface. *See*, col. 1, lines 7-17 of Moriya ‘164 and col. 1, lines 10-20 of Moriya ‘472. Further, Moriya ‘164 and Moriya ‘472 disclose that its film is excellent in flexibility. *Id.* As such, Moriya ‘164 and Moriya ‘472 teach that the film thereof is fitted to the shape of the material to which it is laminated. In this regard, Moriya ‘164 and Moriya ‘472 fail to teach or suggest that its film provides for superior transparency as well as little deformation due to moisture absorption.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Appln. No.: 10/801,570

Docket No: Q80386

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.


Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER


Ken Sakurabayashi
Registration No. 58,490

Date: August 8, 2006